REMARKS

This response is submitted in response to an Office Action mailed on February 25, 2008.

The Office Action essentially maintained the previous rejection of claims 2-18 as allegedly obvious over a base combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,999,587 to Asano et al. (the "Asano Patent") and U.S. Patent No. 7,065,216 to Benaloh et al. (the "Benaloh Patent"), but this time also added US Patent Publication 2002/0035492 of Nonaka (the "Nonaka Publication") to the base combination.

In response to the Office Action, Applicants have (i) amended the independent claims to better define Applicants' invention, (ii) amended the claims that speak about changing audiovisual quality of output in response to security requirement queries, and (iii) added new claims 21-25. No new matter is presented.

I.   Discussion.

The Examiner's introduced the Nonaka Publication to ostensibly address Applicants' arguments that the Asano Patent did not provide any teachings that could be applied to revoking specific media or to counteracting the effects of piracy. The Nonaka Publication relates to an electronic music distribution system with specialized distribution devices and networks and specialized appliances in a home network, all for managing varying formats of different music copies and for managing copy, distribution and usage of music within a home network. The Nonaka publication contemplates a scenario where every device in a home network has intelligent chips (i.e., a "SAM", consisting of a CPU, secure data storage areas and the like), as do certain specialized media. That is to say, the Nonaka Publication contemplates a scenario where at least on some occasions, a disk having a "media SAM" (i.e., a tamperproof CPU and specialized data mounted on it, per FIG. 11 and its supporting disclosure) provides an intelligent system that itself: (a) checks to see whether a home device is revoked, and (b) updates the home network device with a new revocations list (if newer than that possessed by the home network device). The home device may then check a unique identifier associated with the media SAM to determine whether the media SAM has

been revoked; see e.g., paragraphs 232-235 of the Nonaka Publication. The Nonaka Publication calls for a specialized system where player functions are predefined by the system, and where the system can both play conventional media (without the aforementioned security processes) as well as specialized media (that is, media that has "media SAMs").

The present invention, as defined by Applicants' claims, call for something different.

With respect to claim 1 (and its associated dependency set, claims 1-11 and 21-22), these claims call for "program logic for an interpreter of a Turing complete language, the program logic adapted for execution on a playback device in order to play said audiovisual content, the program logic installing on the playback device and cryptographically protecting on the playback device the revocations list;" that is to say, these claims call for code, distributed with compressed audiovisual content, where the code is executed by the player and necessary to play the content, and where that code also is also what installs the revocations list and does so in a cryptographically secure manner. The Nonaka Publication has numerous differences from the invention defined by these claims, notably including that its revocations list process can be bypassed if the media storage key can be discovered, and that it's "media SAM" does not control operation of the player – otherwise stated, neither the Nonaka Publication nor any of the cited art shows the program logic limitations of this claim set, as recited above.

Applicants note that they have also introduced claim 22 and amended claim 3, related to security checks that are also performed by the program logic. Related to the Examiner's combination of references including the Kyle Patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,141,681), none of the cited art discloses security check features performed by program logic in the manner defined by these claims.

With respect to claim 12 (and its associated dependency set, claims 12-15, 20 and 23-24), these claims call for a Turing-complete interpreter for executing program logic configured to:

"(i)   install from the media drive and cryptographically protect in the nonvolatile memory identifiers of revoked media;

(ii)   verify whether valid digital signatures contained on said media authenticate said media; and

(iii)   verify whether said media are identified as revoked in said nonvolatile memory;

(iv)   select a version of each said region;

(v)   decrypt said selected version(s), whereby a combination of said versions selected in the course of playing said media uniquely identifies said device."

That is to say, these claims call for a Touring-complete interpreter that executes program logic where that program logic also is also what installs the revocations list and does so in a cryptographically secure manner. As mentioned, the Nonaka Publication does not disclose these features and does not show a system where the program logic that decrypts versions of video is also what installs and effectuates a media revocations list.

Applicants note that they have also amended claim 14 to better define selective reduction in output quality as part of rendering provided by the device for the content; the cited art (including the Lumelsky Patent, US Patent No. 6,529,950) does not show any such features. Applicants have also added claim 23, related to security checks that are also performed by the program logic, and it is respectfully submitted that neither the Kyle Patent nor the other cited art discloses security check features as required by this claim.

Finally, Applicants have also amended independent claim 16, upon which the remaining claims (17-19 and 25) depend. These claims now recite method elements of using an interpreter to execute said program logic, where said interpreter performs operations specified in said program logic including

"(i)   installing from the media drive and cryptographically protecting identifiers of revoked media;

(ii)   verifying whether valid digital signatures contained on said media authenticate said media; and

(iii)   verifying whether said media are identified as revoked in said nonvolatile memory."
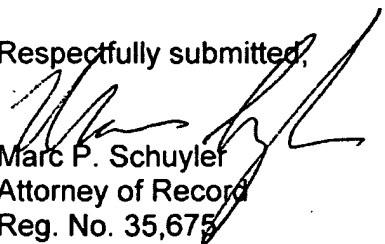
For the same reasons as mentioned above in connection with claim 12 and its dependency set, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited art shows these features or the features of the various dependent claims.

II.   Conclusion.

As demonstrated above, the base rejection advanced by the Examiner does not show a number of limitations of the present claims; because the rejection of each of Applicants' claims is rooted in this base rejection, it is respectfully submitted that no rejection of Applicants' claims can stand. In addition, the rejections advanced by the Examiner based on the Kyle or Lumelsky Patents can also not stand as indicated above, as the amended claims recite limitations that are quite different in effect and purpose than the structures disclosed by these patents.

It is therefore respectfully submitted for the reasons indicated above that the present invention cannot be considered unpatentable over the art combinations cited by the Examiner. The differences between the cited art and the claims at-issue are significant. For the reasons advanced above, the Examiner is requested to reconsider the outstanding rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

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